

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

coupling a pair of networking devices together with a cable;

detecting in a first device of the pair from the cable a mode of the second

device by watching an unused contact of a cable connector for a predetermined voltage level; and

driving the first device into the protocol detected.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

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#### REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicants amend the application and seeks reconsideration thereof. In this response, three claims have been canceled, three claims have been amended and no claims have been added.

Accordingly, Claims 1-7 and 9 are pending.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 1 and 2 have been allowed and Claims 4-8 and 11 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended Claim 3 to incorporate the limitation of objected to Claim 8. Accordingly, Claim 3 is deemed allowable. Moreover, Applicants have amended Claim 4 to place it in independent form. Thus, Claims 4-7 are allowable. Applicants have amended Claim 9 to include the limitation of objected to Claim 11. Applicants have canceled Claims 8, 10 and 11 without prejudice. It is therefore submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 17, 2003

  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 17, 2003.

  
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Susan M. Barrette

6/17/2003  
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Date